

THE 12TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT REPORT



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WARNING:



DESPITE STATE OPPOSITION, CONGRESS PUSHES FOR OFFSHORE OIL RIGS

YEE FIGHTS POMBO'S ASSAULT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental advocates on both sides of the political aisle recently won a major victory as all language pertaining to offshore oil drilling was pulled from the House Budget Reconciliation Bill. For months Speaker pro Tem Yee and most of the Bay Area Congressional delegation had vocally opposed Congressman Richard Pombo's (R-Tracy) efforts to end 24 years of bipartisan federal protection for coastal states and to open up Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil exploration.

"I'm not sure whose interests Congressman Pombo is trying to represent, but clearly it is not the interests California," said Yee, the author of Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) 14, the state legislation that declared California's opposition to Pombo's plans. "Fortunately, other Bay Area Congressional members

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YEE LAUNCHES STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

*WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN URGES MEN TO SPEAK OUT
AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN*

Speaker pro Tem Yee has launched a statewide effort, called the White Ribbon Campaign (WRC), for men to speak out against violence against women. Although this marks the first such statewide campaign in California, the WRC is actually the largest worldwide effort of men working to end violence against women.

"The White Ribbon Campaign is about men speaking out and working to end violence against women," said Speaker pro Tem Yee. "As men, we need to make a statement that we will never commit, condone, nor remain silent about violence against women."

The White Ribbon Campaign will be an ongoing effort urging men to show their support for ending violence against women by wearing white ribbons and signing commitment cards. The Campaign's goals will be to raise awareness of this problem in the community; conduct educational work in schools, workplaces, and communities; and support organizations that deal with the consequences of violence against women.

One such organization that deals with the consequences of violence is Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA) in San Mateo County. According to CORA, nearly 1 in 3 women will be a victim of domestic violence in her lifetime; 3 to 10 million children witness domestic violence every year; and 1 in 5 high school females experience dating violence. According to the California Department of Justice, over 600 incidents of domestic violence are reported every day in California. In addition, 57% of homeless women report that domestic violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness.

"It is incredibly refreshing to see men step up to the plate and promote zero tolerance when it comes to violence against women," said Melissa Lukin, CORA's Executive Director. "Family violence is not just a women's issue; it's a community problem that needs men and women working together. The White Ribbon Campaign is a meaningful way for men to help create a society free from violence against women."

As the number one cause of injury to women, domestic violence costs American businesses between \$3 billion and \$5 billion a year in absenteeism, medical costs, employee turnover, and lost productivity.

"A price tag can't be put on the physical and psychological effects that are forced on victims of violence," said Speaker pro Tem Yee, who is also a child psychologist. "But through the White Ribbon Campaign, men can truly make a difference by taking personal and collective action against violence."

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successfully fought to protect our coast from oil rigs and a potential catastrophic environmental disaster.”

For over two decades, Congress has protected the coasts of California, Washington, Oregon, and other US coastal states from expanded offshore drilling in the form of a legislative moratorium. However, over the past several months Congressman Pombo was pushing legislation to remove all current congressional coastal protection from offshore drilling, and instead substitute an uncertain and complicated new bureaucracy in which states desiring continued protection would need to submit a “petition” for consideration by the Secretary of Interior to extend their coastal protection five years at a time for up to a maximum of ten years. In addition, Pombo wanted to allow oil and gas exploration within 125 miles off the coast and give states incentives to allow oil drilling as close as 50 miles and natural gas drilling even closer at 25 miles.

Today, the Budget bill no longer includes language to weaken the oil drilling moratorium or the Arctic drilling provision.

“It is imperative that House Republicans do not try to sneak this language into the Budget bill during conference committee,” said Yee. “It is time Congressman Pombo starts representing California’s interests and not the interests of the polluters and the big oil companies.”

The Federal Budget Reconciliation Bill will now head to the House floor after the congressional recess, followed by a conference committee negotiation over the contents of both the House and the Senate versions, and then will be subjected to a final vote of both the House and the Senate.

[CLICK TO HEAR LELAND YEE ON AJR 14](#)



ASSEMBLYMAN YEE DELIVERS TURKEYS TO LOW INCOME FAMILIES

***SAN MATEO COUNTY PARISHES AND NON-PROFITS
JOIN YEE IN HOLIDAY SPIRIT OF GIVING***

According to Bay Area food banks, the number of families needing assistance is significantly greater during the winter season. Without donations, many families could go hungry this holiday season.

With that in mind, Speaker pro Tem Yee, in collaboration with California Water Service Company’s (Cal Water) Operation Gobble, donated sixty Thanksgiving Day turkeys to low-income families in San Mateo County. Alongside deserving families, parishes, and nonprofits, the Daly City Emergency Food Pantry enthusiastically accepted the turkeys Wednesday morning.

“Fortunately, many more San Mateo County families will now be able to have a healthy, happy Thanksgiving holiday,” said Speaker pro Tem Yee. “I am honored to be able to join efforts like the Daly City Food Pantry and Daly City Community Services Center in helping provide for families in need.”

To provide food or monetary donations to the Daly City Food Pantry, please call (650) 994-5150. To learn more about Daly City Community Services Center, call (650) 991-8007.



YEE SPONSORS CAPITOL ART DISPLAY FOR INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

***WORK OF STUDENTS TO BE DISPLAYED IN RECOGNITION OF
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES MONTH***

In recognition of “Independent Colleges and Universities Month,” Speaker pro Tem Yee sponsored an art display in the State Capitol Eureka Room, and adjacent dining spaces, to showcase the talents of students attending California’s Independent Colleges and Universities.

“As the Assemblymember representing San Francisco and San Mateo County, the home to eleven independent colleges and universities, I am proud to sponsor these great works of art in the State Capitol,” said Yee. “This art display represents the great diversity of talent among students attending independent higher education institutions throughout California.”

Works from selected colleges and universities, including the University of San Francisco and the California College of the Arts, have been collected for this show. Art that is whimsical, provocative, contemplative, and commercial are all displayed. Accompanying each work is a card that includes the name, school, and background of the artist, the title of the work, and the artist’s thoughts about the piece.

“California is a hotbed of ingenuity and creativity; nowhere is that more obvious than among the emerging artists represented in this display,” stated Jim Doti, President of Chapman University and Executive Committee Chair of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU).

There are 77 private, non-profit colleges that educate more than 230,000 students each year and award over 20 percent of all undergraduate, 48 percent of all masters, 45 percent of all doctoral, and 76 percent of all professional degrees in the California.

The eleven independent colleges and universities in San Francisco and San Mateo counties are Alliant International University, California College of the Arts, California Institute of Integral Studies, Golden Gate University, Menlo College, New College of California, Notre Dame de Namur University, Saybrook Graduate School, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and the University of San Francisco.

The State of California, through the CalGrant program, helps students attend the college of their choice without regard to cost by awarding eligible undergraduates a maximum of \$8,322 each year. In addition, the private non-profit colleges provide students almost one billion dollars in non-governmental money.

“Independent colleges and universities have been a part of California since 1851, and they remain a vibrant part of California’s success,” said Speaker pro Tem Yee. “Through the CalGrant program, we help deserving students receive a quality education from many of these institutions of higher learning.”



2005: 22 YEE-AUTHORED BILLS PASS LEGISLATURE, 12 CHAPTERED INTO LAW

For more details, click on each piece of legislation

Legislation	Title	Location
<u>AB 297</u>	State Employees: requirement to file charges	Chapter 217
<u>AB 443</u>	School food sales	<i>Governor Vetoed</i>
<u>AB 444</u>	School food: nutrition guidelines	<i>Governor Vetoed</i>
<u>AB 451</u>	Local sales tax: jet fuel: place of sale	Chapter 391
<u>AB 452</u>	Vehicles: fines	<i>Governor Vetoed</i>
<u>AB 467</u>	Mental Health: hospital contracts	<i>Governor Vetoed</i>
<u>AB 592</u>	Physicians and surgeons: Lyme Disease	Chapter 304
<u>AB 800</u>	Medical Records: Patient's spoken language	Chapter 313
<u>AB 866</u>	Code of Fair Political Practices	<i>Governor Vetoed</i>
<u>AB 1113</u>	Acupuncture: Diagnosis	<i>Governor Vetoed</i>
<u>AB 1114</u>	Acupuncture: Continuing education	Chapter 648
<u>AB 1115</u>	Acupuncture: Assistant	<i>Governor Vetoed</i>
<u>AB 1116</u>	Foster Care injectables	Chapter 637
<u>AB 1117</u>	Acupuncture: Use of term oriental	Chapter 649
<u>AB 1179</u>	Violent video games: sales to minors	Chapter 638
<u>AB 1208</u>	Vehicle registration fee	<i>Governor Vetoed</i>
<u>AB 1263</u>	Barbering and cosmetology: Nail Salons	<i>Governor Vetoed</i>
<u>AB 1309</u>	Medical Quality Improvement fee	Chapter 516
<u>AB 1737</u>	Worker's Compensation: Medical recoveries	<i>Governor Vetoed</i>
Resolutions	Title	Location
<u>AJR 14</u>	Offshore drilling leases: moratorium	Chapter 94
<u>ACR 54</u>	Mental Health Occupations Week	Chapter 44
<u>ACR 76</u>	Microenterprise Development Month	Chapter 134

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CLICK HERE TO VISIT



THE WRC WEBSITE

In January, Assemblyman Yee will introduce a state resolution in the Legislature to officially declare California's White Ribbon Campaign.

Men who are interested in joining the White Ribbon Campaign are urged to visit Assemblyman Yee's website at www.assembly.ca.gov/yee. If you would like to help distribute ribbons and commitment cards, contact Yee's office at (415) 557-2312 or (916) 319-2012.



SIERRA CLUB GIVES YEE TOP SCORE ON LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

For his complete support of environmental legislation and votes on all ten major environmental bills before the State Assembly, Speaker pro Tem Yee received a 100% rating on the Sierra Club California Legislative Report Card. The ten priority bills on the Sierra Club scorecard included legislation to prohibit the use of certain pesticides at schools, ban toxic mercury in measuring devices, improve air quality, strengthen water planning, and increase the state wild and scenic river system.

"As a legislator representing a number of natural resource and wildlife areas, I take great pride in receiving a 100% rating from the Sierra Club," said Yee. "Recently our environment has been especially under attack, but fortunately the Sierra Club continues to be unwavering in protecting our most vital resources."

"Assemblymember Leland Yee has been a steadfast advocate for protecting and restoring California's air, water, and land, and is a leader in protecting our magnificent coast, helping to rebuff the federal administration's and the oil companies' push to drill for oil and gas off our shores," said Bill Allayaud, State Director for Sierra Club California.

YEE TOPS REPORT CARD ON RACE

YEE CONTINUES TO LEAD ON ISSUES OF LANGUAGE ACCESS

Speaker pro Tem Yee, who represents one of the most ethnically diverse legislative districts in California, earned the top score on the 2005 state legislative report card on racial equity. The report card, released by the public policy and research institute Applied Research Center (ARC), highlights votes on eighteen key pieces of legislation to communities of color.

Specifically, the report card evaluated legislators' votes on bills that addressed economic justice, health equity, civil rights, and criminal justice. Yee earned an A score for a 100% voting record on the scorecard and for authoring Assembly Bill (AB) 800. AB 800, which was signed into law by the Governor, requires health facilities, hospitals, and clinics to include language preference in patient records in order to ensure that the medical facility can respond appropriately to the needs of limited-English-proficient patients.

"Assemblymember Yee has taken leadership in advancing language access reforms so that all patients receive quality healthcare," said Tammy Johnson, Director of ARC's Race and Public Policy Project. "These are the kind of race conscious policies that we highlight in our legislative report card. Dr. Yee scored 100%, setting a high standard for policy makers in California." ◆



November 2, 2005

San Mateo County Times

Wednesday

State seeks ban on using kids as medical translators

Errors prompt calls for action

Garance Burke, Associated Press

MERCED -- Laotian refugee Ker Moua, ailing and unable to speak English, enlisted her 12-year-old son as her medical interpreter.

"She tells me where it hurts, and then we go to the doctor together. But I don't really know what a uterus is," said her son, Jue, whose English is peppered with words from his sixth-grade textbooks and the football field.

"She tells me things I don't know how to say. Sometimes I tell the doctor something else."

His mother's problem was diagnosed as a prolapsed uterus, the result of bearing 14 children. She began taking medication in the doses her son described, but soon felt so dizzy she couldn't get out of bed for two days.

Jue's mistranslation of the doctor's orders caused his mother to take the wrong amount of medicine. The error didn't cause lasting harm, but it's exactly the kind of problem California medical officials want to correct.

The use of children as medical interpreters is a common practice in immigrant-rich states. Yet recent research has described the potentially lethal consequences of faulty translations.

Now California is considering rules that would prevent children from interpreting at private hospitals, doctors'

offices, or clinics except in emergencies.

This month, the California Department of Managed Health Care is holding hearings on the proposed regulations. A group representing the state's largest managed care plans estimates the bold proposal to hire qualified translators could cost \$15 million.

California would be the first state to implement such a wide-ranging ban, said Mara Youdelman, a lawyer with the National Health Law Program in Washington. Other states have restrictions, but none would go as far as California's proposal. Rhode Island, for example, requires all hospitals to provide interpreters older than 16, but the rule does not extend to doctor's offices or clinics.

Specialists say children lack the vocabulary and emotional maturity to serve as effective interpreters. In a state in which 40 percent of the population speaks a language other than English at home, policy makers say California could set a national precedent.

Who will pay for those services is expected to be a key point of debate.

Many hospitals already are using less expensive alternatives, such as telephone or video interpreter services. But the healthcare industry says the new rules could raise the cost for everyone.

If approved, the rules could take effect in March and would require private health plans to provide patients with trained, adult interpreters.

The rules also concern physicians who could be forced to end services to immigrants who don't speak English, said Tom Riley, director of government relations at the California Academy of Family Physicians, which represents family doctors.

The estimated \$15 million in costs doesn't include the cost of a proposed measure that would prevent children from translating for their parents at hospitals and clinics that get public funding.



"I was extremely uncomfortable when my parents asked me to interpret for them," said state Assemblyman Leland Yee, the San Francisco Democrat who proposed the bill. Yee's parents spoke Cantonese. "We have got to understand that it is not an appropriate role for children."

Support for a prohibition against child interpreters is not universal. State Senator Abel Maldonado, a Santa Maria Republican, said there should be a place in the healthcare system for children to translate for their parents, if that's what the family wants. ❖